1/29/75

Dear Jim,

Yesterday you mentioned that Bud had raised the question of our suing jointly over CIA files on us. We did not have time to talk about it and I have not really had time to think it through. I have a few comments off the top of the head.

My major question would be based on long experience, from the time I first met him through after the Memphis hearing: Bud just doesn't keep his word. I never fail to keep mine and I trust everyone else to. Bud changes his mind unilaterally and then creates fictions to justify it to himself. The suvreillance motions to which he agreed 10/13/74 and not yet filed are an example. The letter to Playboy another. Only the most recent.

Were he to do this in such litigation it would be very bad. And I'd not like it and it could interfere with the prospects of success.

I am not, of course, saying that he never keeps his word. But he breaks it often enough and then hates me more for it.

So, I'm not saying either way. I'll want to think about it and we should discuss it when we can. I can see some advantages for both of us and some disadvantages.

I also have to consider another problem in any collaboration with Bud. He is not unaware that he is a compulsive blabber. For years this has made problems. If he is not reluctant to admit the failing, that does not relieve it or the problems it has made. It is bad enough to have to keep secrets from him in the Ray case in order to protect him and the case, but could I in a joint suit?

He trusts people I want nothing to do with. This includes people who are established as being unworthy of trust, like Turner and for so long Sprague and others. While he has every right to trust anyone he wants to, combined with the foregoing I can see problems we might both be better off avoiding. Meaning Bud and I as well as you.

However, I see nothing wrong in our working together. Regardless I will be willing to help him all I can.

I guess the kind of thing that happened with Williams in the spectro case worries me, too. This is more than merely not keeping his word. It has to do with the direction the case takes and it was unilateral.

But I'm not saying no and feel free to discuss this as openly as you deem appropriate with him and/or Bill. Bill knows of my interest in this and in doing something about it virtually from the time we first met. He'll remember that the last time I saw him we discussed an aspect.

I guess I also find myself wondering about the mythology he has manufactured about me, as it has come back to me, sometimes from him, ranging from my being secretly well off financially to my being crazy. He does believes this nonsense. If he doesn't, he has to face what he can't. How would this, today, work out in a joint suit? Could it make problems, especially when we know there has been surveillance and when he blabs so and to so many? Has even he knowledge of those to whom he has said such things about me? Or who they really are or have spoken to? Do we know all he has said that has been taped and can be played back? I have some and know of more, but I can't believe it is all. I've told him only that these can embarrass him, as indeed they can. Witness Goulden. But can they hurt me in a joint suit?

Bud knows what is in his mind. But I wonder if he can be aware of how I view all his fair-tales that are so real to him? Suppose some of these come up?

So, I see no easy or simple answer but I also see no bar to cooperation.

Sincerely,